Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (d):

(a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of ~~any one of~~ SEQ ID NO:~~ 2, 4, 6, or~~ 8;

(b) a polynucleotide comprising the coding region of a nucleotide sequence of ~~any one of~~ SEQ ID NO:~~ 1, 3, 5, or~~ 7;

(c) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having an activity of causing a keratinocyte to differentiate into a stratified epithelial cell when expressed in the keratinocyte, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence with a substitution, deletion, insertion, and/or addition of one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of ~~any one of~~ SEQ ID NO:~~ 2, 4, 6, or~~ 8; and

(d) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having an activity of causing a keratinocyte to differentiate into a stratified epithelial cell when expressed in the keratinocyte, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions with a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence of ~~any one of~~ SEQ ID NO:~~ 1, 3, 5, or~~ 7.

2. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 1 that is a gene involved in keratinocyte differentiation or proliferation, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a secreted protein.

3. (Original) A polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2.

4. (Original) A vector into which the polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2 is inserted.

5. (Original) A host cell carrying the polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2 or the vector of claim 4.

6. (Original) A method for producing the polypeptide of claim 3, comprising the steps of culturing the host cell of claim 5, and recovering a produced polypeptide from the host cell or its culture supernatant.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A polynucleotide that hybridizes specifically with the polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2, wherein the polynucleotide has a chain length of at least 15 nucleotides.

9-20. (Cancelled)